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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/826,107	04/16/2004	Stephen J. Brown	7553.00097 / 04-0410	9877

66683 7590 01/07/2009  
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EXAMINER

RANGREJ, SHEETAL

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3686

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

01/07/2009

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

### Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/826,107

**Applicant(s)**

BROWN, STEPHEN J.

**Examiner**

SHEETAL R. RANGREJ

**Art Unit**

3686

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 September 2008.  
2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.  
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-59 is/are pending in the application.  
4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-59 is/are rejected.  
7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 16 September 2008 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/S508)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 09/24/2008  
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_  
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application  
6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Prosecution History Summary***

- Claims 1-59 are pending.

### ***Information Disclosure Statement***

1. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 09/24/2004 is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner. Some of the foreign documents were not considered because no translations were provided.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-3, 8-11, 16-21, 26-29, 32-36, 39-44, 49-54, and 59 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beckers (U.S. Patent No. 5,019,974).

4. As per claim 1, Beckers teaches a blood glucose monitoring system, comprising:  
a. a blood glucose monitor for monitoring a blood glucose level and for producing digitally

encoded blood glucose level signals representative of said blood glucose level (**Beckers: col. 6, 63-col. 8, 14**);

b. a programmable microprocessor-based portable unit (**Beckers: col. 2, 27-37**);

c. a digital data storage medium, the medium

A. readable by said programmable micro-processor based unit (**Beckers: col. 2, 27-37**);

and

B. tangibly embodying therein a program of instructions executable by said programmable microprocessor-based portable unit, said program of instructions including instructions for signal processing in response to signals generated based upon said digitally encoded blood glucose signals and further for signal processing of insulin dosage data and detecting a need for a change in insulin dosage (**Beckers: col. 2, 27-37; col. 3, 38-50**);

d. a signal interface connected in signal communication with said programmable microprocessor-based portable unit and said blood glucose monitor for coupling said digitally encoded blood glucose signals supplied by said blood glucose monitor to said programmable microprocessor-based portable unit (**Beckers: col. 11, 12-19**); and

e. signal processing means connected in signal communication with said signal interface for performing signal processing functions in accordance with said program of instructions (**Beckers: col. 11, 12-19**).

It would have been obvious to modify the teachings of Beckers with the motivation of providing a system for patients with diabetes to track the changes made in health due to changing age or daily routine (**Beckers: col. 1, 19-29**).

5. As per claim 2, Beckers teaches wherein said microprocessor-based portable unit is a palm-top computer (**Beckers: figure 1**).

The motivation to modify is the same as claim 1.

6. As per claim 3, Beckers teaches the blood glucose monitor for receiving a test strip including a reagent impregnated portion having blood applied thereto (**Beckers: col. 6, 19-36**).

The motivation to modify is the same as claim 1.

7. As per claim 8, Beckers teaches at least a component of said signal interface being connectable with a second device, other than said blood glucose monitor, in signal communication with said programmable microprocessor-based portable unit for coupling further signals supplied by said second device to said programmable microprocessor-based portable unit (**Beckers: claim 12(a)**).

The motivation to modify is the same as claim 1.

8. As per claim 9, Beckers teaches wherein said programmable microprocessor-based portable unit comprises an interactive interface, including:

1) a display for displaying information (**Beckers: col. 11, 20-22**);

2) a plurality of switches operable for interactively controlling said microprocessor-based interactive portable unit and for manipulating said information displayed on said display (**Beckers: figure 1**); and

3) circuit means coupled to said plurality of switches for generating signals in response to said operation of said switches (**Beckers: col. 2, 38 to col. 3, 20**).

The motivation to modify is the same as claim 1.

9. As per claim 17, Beckers teaches A method of performing diabetes self-care with a system of integrated electronic devices, comprising:

-powering a portable blood glucose monitor with one or more batteries (**Beckers: col. 6, 19-22; col. 8, 16-22**);

-receiving an amount of blood sufficient for a blood glucose monitor to run a blood glucose test sequence (**Beckers: col. 6, 23-27**);

-controlling the blood glucose test sequence (**Beckers: col. 6, 19-36**);

-computing a blood glucose level (**Beckers: col. 6, 34-36**);

-signal coupling the blood glucose monitor to a portable microprocessor-based electronic device via a first data port (**Beckers: col. 2, 12-20**);

-transmitting blood glucose test results from said blood glucose monitor to said portable microprocessor-based device (**Beckers: col. 2, 34-37**);

-running program instructions stored in a memory of the portable microprocessor-based device for performing analysis of the blood glucose test results, signal processing of insulin dosage data, and detecting a need for a change in insulin dosage (**Beckers: col. 2, 27-53**); and

-recording blood glucose test results and insulin dosage information in a memory of the portable microprocessor-based device, said memory also containing programming for establishing a data

protocol that allows digital data signal processing, and for performing said analysis of blood glucose (**Beckers: col. 2, 27-53**).

The motivation to modify is the same as claim 1.

10. As per claim 18, Beckers teaches the receiving including inserting a test strip into a receptacle of the blood glucose monitor; and applying a drop of blood to the strip (**Beckers: col. 6, 23-27**).

The motivation to modify is the same as claim 1.

11. As per claim 19, Beckers teaches further comprising displaying the blood glucose level on a display (**Beckers: col. 6, 34-36**).

The motivation to modify is the same as claim 1.

12. As per claim 27, Beckers teaches wherein said portable microprocessor-based device comprises an interactive interface including a display screen and a plurality of switches including a pair of spaced-apart push button switches and another pair of switches, and the method further comprises interactively controlling said portable microprocessor-based device by manipulating said switches (**Beckers: figure 1**).

The motivation to modify is the same as claim 1.

13. As per claim 28, Beckers teaches a blood glucose monitoring system, comprising:

- a. a blood glucose monitor for monitoring a blood glucose level and for producing digitally encoded blood glucose level signals representative of said blood glucose level (**Beckers: col. 6, 63-col. 8, 14**);
- b. a programmable microprocessor-based portable unit (**Beckers: col. 2, 27-37**);

- c. digital data storage media tangibly embodying therein processor-executable program instructions for signal processing in response to signals based upon said digitally encoded blood glucose signals and further for signal processing of insulin dosage data and detecting a need for a change in insulin dosage and further for performing a test sequence to confirm that the system is operating properly (**Beckers: col. 3, 23-50**);
- d. a signal interface connected in signal communication with said programmable microprocessor-based portable unit and said blood glucose monitor for coupling said digitally encoded health signals supplied by said blood glucose monitor to said programmable microprocessor-based portable unit (**Beckers: col. 11, 12-19**); and
- e. signal processing means connected in signal communication with said signal interface for performing signal processing functions in accordance with said program of instructions (**Beckers: col. 11, 12-19**).

The motivation to modify is the same as claim 1.

14. As per claim 40, Beckers teaches A system of interconnected devices for performing diabetes self-care, comprising:
- (a) a blood glucose monitor, including:
    - (i) a receptacle for receiving an amount of blood sufficient for the monitor to run a blood glucose test sequence (**Beckers: col. 6, 24-27**);
    - (ii) processing circuitry for controlling a blood glucose test sequence and computing a blood glucose level (**Beckers: col. 6, 28-36**),
    - (iii) a battery compartment for holding a battery for powering the blood glucose monitor



**(Beckers: col. 8, 16-22), and**

(iv) a first data port for signal coupling to another electronic device **(Beckers: col. 10, 30-32);**  
and

(b) a portable microprocessor-based device signal coupled with the blood glucose monitor,  
including:

(i) a second data port for signal coupling with the first data port and receiving blood glucose test  
results from said blood glucose monitor **(Beckers: col. 9, 25-30),**

(ii) a microprocessor that runs according to program instructions stored in a memory for  
performing analysis of the blood glucose test results, signal processing of insulin dosage data,  
and detecting a need for a change in insulin dosage **(Beckers: col. 3, 38-50),**

(iii) a memory for recording the recorded blood glucose test results and insulin dosage  
information therein, and for containing programming for establishing a data protocol that allows  
digital data signal processing, and for performing analysis of blood glucose **(Beckers: col. 3, 38-  
50).**

The motivation to modify is the same as claim 1.

15. Claims 4-7, 12-15, 22-25, 30-31, 37-38, 45-48, 55-58 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)  
as being unpatentable over Beckers (U.S. Patent No. 5,019,974) in view of Reference U.

16. As per claim 4, Beckers does not explicitly teach the program of instructions including  
instructions for monitoring whether a sufficient amount of blood has been applied to said reagent  
impregnated portion of the test strip.

Reference U teaches the program of instructions including instructions for monitoring whether a sufficient amount of blood has been applied to said reagent impregnated portion of the test strip (**U: p. 253, col. 2, para. 5**).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings with the motivation of giving the patients a greater responsibility for managing their diabetes (**U: p. 253, col. 1, para. 1**).

17. As per claim 5, Beckers does not explicitly teach the program of instructions further including instructions for monitoring whether said test strip is properly inserted into the monitor.

Reference U teaches the program of instructions further including instructions for monitoring whether said test strip is properly inserted into the monitor (**U: p. 265, col. 2, para. 3**).

The motivation to combine the teachings is the same as claim 4.

18. As per claim 6, Beckers does not explicitly teach the program of instructions further including instructions for monitoring whether said test strip is properly inserted into the monitor.

Reference U teaches the program of instructions further including instructions for monitoring whether said test strip is properly inserted into the monitor (**U: p. 257, col. 1, para. 2**).

The motivation to combine the teachings is the same as claim 4.

19. As per claim 7, Beckers does not explicitly teach the program of instructions further including instructions for performing a test sequence to confirm that the system is operating properly.

Reference U teaches the program of instructions further including instructions for performing a test sequence to confirm that the system is operating properly (U: p. 257, col. 1, para. 2).

The motivation to combine the teachings is the same as claim 4.

20. Claims 10-16 recite substantially similar limitations as those already addressed in claims 2-8, and, as such, are rejected for similar reasons as given above.
21. Claims 20-26 recite substantially similar limitations as those already addressed in claims 2-8, and, as such, are rejected for similar reasons as given above.
22. Claims 29-31 recite substantially similar limitations as those already addressed in claims 3-5, and, as such, are rejected for similar reasons as given above.
23. Claim 32 recite substantially similar limitations as those already addressed in claim 2, and, as such, are rejected for similar reasons as given above.
24. Claims 33-34 recite substantially similar limitations as those already addressed in claims 8-9, and, as such, are rejected for similar reasons as given above.
25. Claims 35-38 recite substantially similar limitations as those already addressed in claims 2-5, and, as such, are rejected for similar reasons as given above.
26. Claim 39 recite substantially similar limitations as those already addressed in claim 8, and, as such, are rejected for similar reasons as given above.
27. Claims 41-42 recite substantially similar limitations as those already addressed in claims 18-19, and, as such, are rejected for similar reasons as given above.

28. Claims 43-50 recite substantially similar limitations as those already addressed in claims 2-9, and, as such, are rejected for similar reasons as given above.

29. Claims 51-52 recite substantially similar limitations as those already addressed in claims 18-19, and, as such, are rejected for similar reasons as given above.

30. Claims 53-59 recite substantially similar limitations as those already addressed in claims 2-8, and, as such, are rejected for similar reasons as given above.

### ***Conclusion***

31. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

32. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SHEETAL R. RANGREJ whose telephone number is (571) 270-1368. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jerry O'Connor can be reached on (571) 272-6787. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or (571) 272-1000.

/SRR/  
Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 3686  
January 5, 2008

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